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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/539,434

01/13/2006

Cinderella Christina Gerhardt

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06/13/2006

UNILEVER INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GROUP  
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EXAMINER

BRADLEY, CHRISTINA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1654

DATE MAILED: 06/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/539,434	GERHARDT ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Christina Bradley	1654	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 June 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-7, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
3. Claims 1-7, 12 and 13 provide for the use of whey protein hydrolysate, but, since the claim does not set forth any steps involved in the method/process, it is unclear what method/process applicant is intending to encompass. A claim is indefinite where it merely recites a use without any active, positive steps delimiting how this use is actually practiced.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

4. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

5. Claims 1-7, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed recitation of a use, without setting forth any steps involved in the process, results in an improper definition of a process, i.e., results in a claim which is not a proper process claim under 35 U.S.C. 101. See for example *Ex parte Dunki*, 153 USPQ 678 (Bd.App. 1967) and *Clinical Products, Ltd. v. Brenner*, 255 F. Supp. 131, 149 USPQ 475 (D.D.C. 1966).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1, 3-10, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Siemensma *et al.* (EP 1112693). Siemensma *et al.* teach a composition comprising whey protein hydrolysate (see page 4, lines 4-6) which increases blood insulin response after oral intake for an enhanced recovery after physical exercise or delays physical exhaustion during exercise (see page 2, lines 4-6). The composition causes an uptake of glucose by skeletal muscle tissue (see page 2, line 24). The protein raw material in the composition is hydrolyzed so that the average chain length is 4.1 amino acids (see page 4, lines 4-6). The protein material can be present in an amount of 0.1-50% calculated on the dry matter of the composition (see page 2, lines 50-51). The composition can have the form of a powder, a beverage or any other food product (see page 3, lines 1-2). The composition was administered to subjects following an overnight fast (i.e. as a meal replacement) (see page 4, line 17).

8. Claims 1, 4-10, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Reimer *et al.* (WO 01/37850). Reimer *et al.* teach the use of milk protein hydrolysates for the treatment or prevention of diabetes (see page 1, lines 5-6). These hydrolysates can induce a release of glucagons-like peptide I and can be used to improve glucose homeostasis (see page 3, lines 3-4). The milk protein hydrolysate which is capable of inducing GLP-1 comprises proteins

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that are present in sweet or acid whey (see page 7, lines 20-21). The composition can be incorporated into food such as breakfast cereal flakes or bars, soy-based products, drinks, milk powders or confectionary bars (see page 10, lines 29-34). The composition can be a nutritional supplement for clinical nutrition (see page 10, line 33-34). The amount of whey protein is at least 0.01% by weight (see page 10, line 34).

9. Claims 1, 2, 8 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Forse *et al.* (USPN 5,821,217). Forse *et al.* teach a formulation comprising protein hydrolysates where the protein can be lactalbumin (see column 2, line 63). The formulation is intended to be administered to critically ill patients and to control blood sugar levels in these patients (see column 2, line 25).

### ***Conclusion***

10. No claims are allowed.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christina Bradley whose telephone number is (571) 272-9044.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

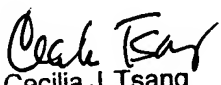
12. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cecilia Tsang can be reached on (571) 272-0562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

13. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

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may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

cmb

  
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**Supervisory Patent Examiner**  
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